
IUU Fishing Action Alliance (IUU-AA)

Meeting Summary

June 27, 2024, 19:00-20:30 (Eastern Daylight Time)

The IUU-AA convened a virtual meeting on Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 19:00 EDT. Chaired by Canada, the meeting including representatives from members: Canada, Chile, Iceland, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, and United States (U.S.); and supporter organizations: Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), Global Fishing Watch (GFW), Oceana, Skylight, and The Pew Charitable Trusts. The Stimson Center also attended, in its role as administrator in support of Canada's Chairship.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- A roll call was conducted to confirm attendance.
- The Chair encouraged members and supporters to designate both working-level and principal contacts and to share those with the Stimson Center for future communications.

2. IUU-AA Objectives and Opportunities

- The meeting began with a discussion on the IUU-AA's objectives.
- The Chair emphasized the power of coordinated global action and discussed potential opportunities for in-person meetings in the future, including on the margins of international events and the 3rd UN Oceans Conference.
- Plans were shared for the first deep dive session of the IUU-AA, which is scheduled tentatively for **October 2, 2024**. This first deep dive session will explore data sharing and transparency initiatives.
- Members and supporters highlighted the potential of the IUU-AA pledge as a tool for driving change and emphasized the importance of tangible, actionable outcomes from these sessions.

3. Planning – Deep Dive Sessions

- Meeting participants expressed interest in the proposed structure of the deep dives, particularly having an opportunity to hear from informed panelists and technical experts.
- The idea of focusing on high seas boarding and inspection (HSBI) was brought forward by Canada, given the relevance of HSBI to data transparency.
- The meeting participants considered that future deep dive sessions could explore supply chain traceability, including leveraging frameworks like the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency proposed by the Environmental Justice Foundation.

- The Chair committed to providing a revised Deep Dive concept note that would take into account the above comments.

4. Opportunities for In-Person Gatherings

- Opportunities for in-person gatherings were noted, including the upcoming Thirty-sixth session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI36) meeting, where the IUU-AA's presence and initiatives would be showcased at a "Speakers' Corner." The IUU-AA's Speakers' Corner presentation will be held on **Tuesday, July 9, at 13:50 (CET) in the atrium of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).**
- Several members and supports indicated they would be attending COFI36, including Iceland, U.S., New Zealand, EJF, and GFW.
- The upcoming UN Ocean Conference in 2025 was also highlighted as a key opportunity to share concrete updates on the IUU-AA's progress.

5. Administrative Items

- Meeting participants discussed the IUU-AA membership approval process and all agreed that maintaining a streamlined process with a silence procedure would be most appropriate.
- Participants also considered targeted outreach to potential new members.
- FishWise, World Wildlife Fund, and Sailors for the Sea were brought forward as new supporter organizations, with no objections raised during the meeting.

6. Other Business

- The meeting concluded with acknowledgments of ongoing legislative efforts in member countries, including Chile's fisheries legislation reform.
- Initial plans to prepare a public-facing IUU-AA website were discussed to enhance visibility and global outreach efforts.
- Canada, as Chair of the IUU-AA, will also circulate a "pledge matrix" for feedback from members and supporters. The initial idea for the matrix is to serve as a tool to highlight and track progress made on the components of the pledge and to have greater visibility on what actions are being taken by other IUU-AA members and supporters.

Closing Remarks

It was noted that a meeting summary would be circulated. Plans for future virtual meetings were shared, with an interest in scheduling further discussions on the structure and topic of the first deep dive session in August.